

## **ABSTRACT**

The thesis „Psychological and social aspects of coping with oncological gynecological illnesses (focused on breast cancer)“ studies the demands and difficulties which women diagnosed with breast cancer are dealing with.

In the theoretical part, attention is given to breast tumor and to the stages of the illness. It shows the needs and problems the women face and the possibilities of psychological help. This part of my thesis also describes different types of cure and its specifics and the changes it brings to the women's life. It is followed by coping strategies and defence mechanisms. In conclusion, the effects of the illness on personal relationships are outlined.

In the empirical part, we map supporting psychological and other factors which helped with the treatment and with coping with it. The empirical part comprises 11 individual interviews with women who had breast cancer. The research methodology is supplemented with The Life Satisfaction Inventory. In the interviews we also focused on the factors of health care which were helping and the ones that could be improved.

The results of the mapping qualitative study indicated two most important factors which helped the women to cope with this serious illness. It was social support and active coping strategies. In the sphere of health care, the women found most helpful support, amplexness of information and kind approach of medical staff.

## **KEY WORDS**

Coping with oncological illness, psychological factors of adaptation, breast carcinoma, psychological help, coping strategies.